GP#/634

PTO/SB/21 (6-98) Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box -> [+] Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0031 Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control **Application Number** 09/689.937 TRANSMITTAL **Filing Date** 10/11/2000 RECEIVED **FORM First Named Inventor** Fred C. Christians DEC 1 3 2002 (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Group Art Unit 1634 Stephanie W. Zitomer TECH CENT#R 1600/2900 Examiner Name Total Number of Pages in This Submission Attorney Docket Number 3299.1 ENCLOSURES (check all that apply) Assignment Papers After Allowance Communication to Fee Transmittal Form (for an Application) Group Appeal Communication to Board of Fee Attached Drawing(s) Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to Group Amendment / Response Licensing-related Papers (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) ☐ Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) After Final Proprietary Information and Accompanying Petition Petition to Convert to a Affidavits/declaration(s) Status Letter Provisional Application Power of Attorney, Revocation Additional Enclosure(s) Extension of Time Request Change of Correspondence Address (please identify below): Acknowledgment postcard. Terminal Disclaimer Express Abandonment Request Small Entity Statement Information Disclosure Statement Request for Refund Certified Copy of Priority Remarks Document(s) Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Sandra Wells, 52,349 Individual name Signature 12/05/2002 Date **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING** I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date: Typed or printed name Leticia R. Block

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PATENT Attorney Docket No.3299.1 12/B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fred Christians et al.

Serial No: 09/689,937

Filing Date: October 11, 2000

Title: PREPARATION OF

NUCLEIC ACID SAMPLES

Examiner: S. Zitomer

RECEIVED

Group Art Unit: 1655

DEC 1 3 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

REPLY AND AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 05, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejections and reexamination of the present application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20 line 20 with the following paragraph:

 $\mathcal{B}/$

The following procedure was performed in PCR tubes in a thermocycler. An initial mixture was prepared by mixing 25 μ g of total *E. coli* RNA to 13.75 μ L of 5.0 μ M rRNA Reverse Transcriptase (RT) Primer Mix, and adding deionized water (DI H₂O) to a final volume of 30 μ L and a concentration of .83 μ g/ μ L of RNA.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20 line 24 with the following paragraph:

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The following primers were used to target 16S and 23S RNA (each primer is 5 μ M in the RT primer mix):

16S1514 5'-CCTACGGTTACCTTGTT-3'